

Section 1: Land Between Two Rivers
The Fertile Crescent**Reading Readiness Guide****Anticipation Guide**

How much do you think you know about the ancient region known as the Fertile Crescent? As your teacher reads the statements, mark whether you think each statement is true (T) or false (F) in the Me column. Then discuss your answers with your group and mark the group's decision in the Group column. As you read, look for information that will clarify whether the statements are true or false.

After you read the section, read the statements again and mark the After Reading column to indicate whether they are true or false.

Before Reading		Statements	After Reading
Me	Group		
		1. Professional writers known as scribes were important because they were the only people who could keep records for kings and priests.	
		2. Students in the ancient region of Sumer normally went to school from age 8 to 15.	
		3. The word Mesopotamia comes from the Greek words that mean "between the mountains."	
		4. Floods along the riverbanks sometimes arrived unexpectedly, sweeping away people, animals, crops, and houses.	
		5. Sumerian homes relied on candles for light.	
		6. Sumerian myths warned that the gods would punish people who angered them.	

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Guided Reading and Review

A. As You Read

Directions: As you read Section 1, fill in the table below with details about Mesopotamia and the civilizations that developed there.

Facts About Mesopotamia	
Location	1.
Important Geographic Features	2.
Ways of Life	3.
Religion	4.

B. Reviewing Key Terms

Directions: Complete each sentence by writing the correct term in the blank provided.

- In ancient Sumer, if a person wanted a letter written or a list of trade items drawn up, he or she would hire a professional writer called a _____.
- The site of the first civilizations was known as the _____, a region in Southwest Asia.
- In ancient Mesopotamia, each _____ acted as a state with its own ruler.
- The belief in many gods is called _____.
- Stories about gods are also known as _____.